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**CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE**

**and**

**SHRIDATH RAMPHAL CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW, POLICY AND SERVICES, UWI**

Technical Workshop on

Climate Change and Trade Obligations

for CARICOM Member States

**January 28-29, 2025**

**Barbados**

**Organizers/Collaborators:**

* Organized by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC), UWI, Cave Hill Campus
* With the technical support of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the CARICOM Secretariat

**Date and Venue:** October 28-29, 2025, in Barbados (Hybrid format with in-person and virtual participation)

**Background and Rationale**CARICOM member states face existential threats due to the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and disruptions to food security. These threats jeopardize socio-economic development, livelihoods, and the sustainability of key industries such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism. Addressing these challenges requires concerted adaptation and mitigation efforts, but CARICOM member states often face financial and technological barriers that hinder progress. As such, international cooperation and a strong regional response are essential.

Trade is vital to CARICOM's economic resilience. It provides access to global markets, drives foreign investment, and supports the region’s development goals. However, climate change is poised to disrupt these trade patterns by impacting production, transportation, and market access. New international trade regulations linked to climate policies, such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act, further complicate matters for CARICOM exporters. These policies impose carbon-related tariffs on imports from countries that lack robust climate measures, raising compliance costs and potentially reducing CARICOM's competitiveness.

As both trade and climate negotiations advance, CARICOM countries are recognizing the interlinkages between these two governance spheres. The trade and climate communities, particularly at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and within United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes, are becoming increasingly intertwined. Last year’s UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting in Dubai marked the first-ever "Trade Day," and this year’s COP in Baku will feature a "Trade and Investment Day."

With global climate negotiations such as COP looming large, and with WTO negotiations taking place next year, CARICOM’s engagement in these processes continues to be crucial. The region’s priorities in climate include securing funding for loss and damage, gaining access to technology transfer, and ensuring fair carbon market mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. CARICOM's participation in the political process of the Paris Agreement has seen progress, but several hurdles remain, including the need for stronger commitments from developed countries to fulfill climate finance pledges. As these negotiations unfold, CARICOM must also consider how evolving trade rules under the WTO can support or hinder the region's climate ambitions. At the WTO, CARICOM negotiators participate (informally) in ongoing plurilateral negotiations among like-minded countries to create opportunities for greater transfer of climate-friendly goods, services, and technologies, as well as in the discussions in the Committees that increasingly take note of trade-related measures taken by WTO members to meet their climate targets, which affect or stand to affect their trade competitiveness.

There are significant opportunities to align trade and climate goals, particularly in carbon markets, technology transfer, loss and damage, and the just transition. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement provides pathways for CARICOM to engage in carbon trading, which could attract investments into low-carbon development projects. However, policies like the EU CBAM pose challenges by introducing trade barriers for carbon-intensive goods. Technology transfer mechanisms under the WTO, meanwhile, offer opportunities for CARICOM to access the tools needed for climate resilience. There are also opportunities to align trade measures and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that can help CARICOM meet its climate targets and advance negotiating positions on both trade and climate fronts.

At the regional level, CARICOM has traditionally addressed trade and climate matters separately, engaging at the level of Heads of Government through mechanisms such as the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED), and via independent participation in UNFCCC and WTO processes. However, this siloed approach—both at technical and political levels—is no longer sustainable and is a barrier to advancing the climate agenda holistically. There is growing recognition of the need to bring trade and climate technical officials and negotiators together to overcome challenges and start to capitalize on opportunities jointly. This workshop provides a timely and much-needed opportunity to facilitate this convergence, especially with COP Baku approaching and a WTO Ministerial meeting set for next year. Breaking down these silos is essential to unlock potential synergies between the two communities.

Against this backdrop, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC) at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, with support from resource persons from the WTO and United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretariats, will host a workshop uniting trade and climate technical and negotiating officials. The workshop will provide a platform to foster discussions on how CARICOM can align its trade policies with climate obligations, taking into account the potential impacts of international trade measures. Furthermore, it will offer an opportunity to strengthen CARICOM’s collective strategy heading into COP and upcoming WTO negotiations, ensuring that the region’s priorities are reflected in both arenas.

**Objective**

The workshop aims to foster collaboration between CARICOM trade and climate change negotiators by examining the intersections between climate and trade obligations. It will focus on understanding the ongoing negotiations at key forums, particularly the WTO and the UNFCCC, and how these discussions intersect and influence each other, as well as their implications for CARICOM states. The workshop will also address the challenges and opportunities these intersections present for the region. Additionally, it will explore CARICOM's priorities for upcoming COP meetings and the submission of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), highlighting how trade tools can help CARICOM states meet their climate targets. Ultimately, the workshop seeks to promote a more integrated regional trade and climate policy to support these critical negotiations.

**Expected Outcomes**

* Improved Collaboration: Strengthened partnerships between trade and climate negotiators in CARICOM.
* Strategic Policy Alignment: Identification of opportunities to align trade and climate policies to seize opportunities and overcome challenges
* Policy Recommendations: Development of actionable recommendations for advancing CARICOM’s climate and trade agendas at COP and WTO negotiations and with the regional processes in mind.
* Roadmap for Regional Engagement: Creation of a roadmap for continued engagement with international initiatives and negotiation and regional levels

**Audience:**

The workshop will bring together technical officials from each CARICOM Member State, with each country represented by one trade and one climate official; as well as technical officials from regional organizations. Representatives of a subgroup of countries – Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Saint Lucia, and Belize – will be invited to attend physically, with other persons joining virtually.

**Workshop Format**

The two-day workshop will be a hybrid format with in-person and virtual participation utilsing a mixture of presentations, panel discussions, and working sessions, designed to facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange between negotiators, experts, and regional policymakers.

**Core readings:**

* **WTO Trade Report: Climate Change and International Trade**: available here: <https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/wtr22_e.htm>
* WTO: Trade Policy Tools for Climate Action: available here: <https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/tptforclimataction_e.pdf>
* **Mapping Trade-related Measures in Nationally Determined Contributions – Technical Note:** available here: <https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditcmisc2023d2_en.pdf>
* **The Trade and Climate Change Interface: Initial Considerations for CARICOM**: Jan Yves Remy, Rueanna Haynes, and Kaycia Ellis-Bourne (: available here: <https://shridathramphalcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/The-Trade-and-Climate-Change-Interface-Policy-Brief.pdf>
* **Trade-Related Climate Priorities for CARICOM at the World Trade Organization**: Jan Yves Remy available at: <https://shridathramphalcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/TESS-Policy-Paper-Trade-Related-Priorities-for-CARICOM-at-the-WTO.pdf>
* **What does a just transition look like for Caribbean Small Island Developing States**: Kristin Qui and Carlon Mendoza (Climate Analytics): <https://climateanalytics.org/publications/what-does-a-just-transition-look-like-for-caribbean-sids>
* **Border Carbon Adjustments: Trinidad and Tobago country Report** (IISD/UWI) by Preeya Mohan and Jaymieon Jagessar: available at: <https://www.iisd.org/publications/report/border-carbon-adjustments-trinidad-and-tobago>
* **A Deep Dive into Ocean-related Measures in the Nationally-Determined Contributions of Smalls Island Developing States (Technical Note)** (UNCTAD and SRC) (*forthcoming*)

Draft Agenda

**Day 1: Setting the Scene and Exploring Synergies**

**January 28, 2025**

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| Time | Session | Outputs | Format |
| 8:30am- 9:00am | Registration |  |  |
| 9:00am -9:30 am | Welcome Remarks | Introduction to workshop goals and importance of trade-climate synergies. | Speakers:  CCCCC – Mark Bynoe  UWI/SRC – Prof. Winston Moore)  CARICOM Secretariat – Amrika/ Mc Cook |
| 9:30am – 9:40am | Objectives of Workshop |  | SRC/CCCC/CA |
| 9:40 am - 10:15am | Presentation and Q&A – Climate Change in the Caribbean: Science and Impacts | Participants understand the current and projected impacts of climate change on key tradeable sectors and communities in CARICOM. | CIMH - Dr. David Farrell UWI CSG - Dr. Michael Taylor |
| 10-15 am -10:30 am | *Break* |  |  |
| 10:30am- 11:30am | Panel Discussion - CARICOM’s Priorities post-COP29 | Insight into CARICOM’s key COP priorities, including loss and damage, access to finance, and just transition. | Moderator: Rueanna Haynes  Janie Felson (Virtual) Kishan Kumarsingh  Mark Bynoe Carlos Fuller  Spencer Thomas |
| 11:30am-12:30pm | Panel Discussion - CARICOM’s Climate Priorities in Trade | Insight into CARICOM’s key priorities on climate-trade issues | Moderator: Jan Yves Remy  Amb Matthew Wilson  Joel Richards  Andy Sutherland  Wayne Mc Cook |
| 12:30pm- 1:30pm | *Lunch* |  |  |
| 1:30 pm -2:45 pm | Presentations - Synergies Between Climate and Trade Negotiations | Analysis of synergies between trade and climate: Challenges and Opportunities | Jan Yves Remy and Rueanna Haynes |
| 2:45 pm – 3:30 pm | Specific areas of focus | CBAM, Technology Transfer, and Carbon Markets, Finance | Kishan Kumarsingh  Preeya Mohan  Ricardo Marshall  [Trade] |
| 3:30pm- 3:45pm | *Break* |  |  |
| 3:45 – 4:45 | Regional and international institutional processes to facilitate trade and climate working together | Bringing the regional and international perspectives on climate and trade together | Moderator: TBD  Panel discussions:  CARICOM, WTO, CDB, Caribbean Export |
| 4:45pm-5:00pm | Wrap-Up and Reflections on Day 1 | Summary of key insights and preparation for Day 2. | Presenter: Donneil Cain and Jan Yves Remy |

**Day 2: Developing Actionable Strategies**

**January 29, 2024**

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| Time | Session | Outputs | | Format |
| 9:00am- 9:15am | Recap of Day 1 and Scene-Setting for Day 2 | Brief overview of key takeaways from Day 1 and explaining objectives of sessions | | Jan Yves Remy |
| 9:15am -10:45am | Presentation – Integrating Climate and Trade Policies in CARICOM | Development of strategies to align national climate policies (NDCs, NAPs) with trade strategies. | | Facilitators: Regional and International Experts (UNCTAD) |
| 10:45am- 11:00am | *Break* |  |  | |
| 11:00am- 12:15am | Presentation – Integrating Climate and Trade Policies in CARICOM | Development of strategies, including TBT measures, to align national climate policies (NDCs, NAPs) with trade strategies. | | Facilitators: Devin McDaniels -WTO |
| 12:15pm- 1:15pm | *Lunch* |  | |  |
| 1:15pm -2:30pm | Presentation - Case studies on decarbonizing value chains and trade and relevance for CARICOM | Actionable insights on integrating decarbonization strategies into CARICOM value chains and trade policies to enhance sustainability and competitiveness. | | Facilitators: Devin McDaniels -WTO |
| 2:30pm-3:00pm | Next Steps for CARICOM in COP and WTO Negotiations | Drawing from perspectives, formulation of a unified regional agenda for addressing just transition, loss and damage, and trade-related climate policies. | | Moderator: Rueanna Haynes |
| 3:00pm- 3:15pm | *Break* |  | |  |
| 3:15pm – 4:00pm | Recommendations and Next Steps for CARICOM | Recommendations for better alignment between Climate and Trade and national, and regional levels | | Moderator: Rueanna Haynes  Panel discussions:  Wayne Mc Cook  Mark Bynoe  Carlos Fuller  Esmond Reid/Matthew Wilson |
| 4:00pm-4:30pm | Wrap-Up, Reflections and Next Steps |  | | Presenter: Donneil Cain and Jan Yves Remy |